

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 25, comprising measuring the microorganisms after the irradiation of the particles, supplying microorganisms under the same conditions for the sterilizing treatment with the irradiation of the particles to ~~get the~~ obtain microorganisms subjected to spontaneous decay without irradiation of the particles, sampling the microorganisms, and measuring the sampled microorganisms.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 25, wherein measuring the timewise change of the measured microorganisms in an irradiation time period of the particles is also done in measuring the sampled microorganisms.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 25, wherein measuring the dependency of the elimination performance on the ~~particles~~ concentration of particles is also done in measuring the sampled microorganisms.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 25, wherein a solution of microorganisms in dispersion is sprayed in a mist ~~[[form]]~~ formed during the supply of microorganisms in the space inside the container.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 25, wherein the microorganisms can be measured by using a cell culture due to the microorganisms, hemagglutination induced by the microorganisms, or an allergic reaction

induced by the microorganisms.

Claims 9-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 25, wherein the microorganisms are a combination of one or more members selected from the group consisting of bacteria, ~~myeete~~, mycetes, viruses and allergens.

Claim 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) An apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms, comprising a container for supplying microorganisms in the space inside the container and carrying out the sterilizing treatment of microorganisms, a microorganism supply means for supplying microorganisms in the space inside the container, a microorganism elimination means for supplying particles with positive ions for a sterilizing treatment of microorganisms and particles with negative ions for a sterilizing treatment of microorganisms simultaneously in the space inside the container, a microorganism sampling means for sampling the microorganisms after the sterilizing treatment of microorganisms by the ~~microorganisms~~ microorganism elimination means, wherein measuring and evaluating the microorganisms sampled by the microorganism sampling means are done.

15. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms, comprising a container for supplying viruses as microorganisms in the space inside the container and carrying out the sterilizing treatment of microorganisms, a microorganism supply means for supplying microorganisms in the space inside the container, a microorganism elimination means for supplying particles for the sterilizing treatment of microorganisms in the space inside the container, and a microorganism sampling means for sampling the microorganisms after the sterilizing treatment of microorganisms by the means of elimination of microorganisms, wherein

measuring and evaluating the microorganisms sampled with the microorganism sampling means are done.

16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the microorganism supply means, the microorganism elimination means and the microorganism sampling means are sequentially arranged on the passage of the air containing microorganisms from the upstream side toward the downstream side thereof.

17. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 14 or 15, wherein a wind tunnel forming a passage of the air containing microorganisms is interposed between the microorganism supply means and the microorganism sampling means, wherein the microorganism elimination means is arranged inside the wind tunnel.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the microorganism elimination means and the microorganism sampling means are arranged outside the vertically downward region of the microorganism supply means.

19. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 14 or 15, wherein a separate container is arranged outside the container so as to cover the container.

20. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 14 or 15, wherein a stirring means for stirring the space inside the container is arranged in the space inside the container.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the apparatus is constituted such that supplying microorganisms with the microorganism supply means is done by preparing a solution of microorganisms in dispersion in a mist form and then spraying in a mist form into the space inside the container.

22. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the apparatus is constituted such that the particles for the sterilizing treatment of microorganisms are discharged in [[a]] the form of a gas generated by any of atmospheric electric discharge, atmospheric irradiation of radiation and the Lenard effect.

23. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) The apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 15, wherein the apparatus is constituted such that the particles for the sterilizing treatment of microorganisms are discharged in the form of radiation, X [[ray,]] rays, gamma [[ray]] rays and electromagnetic ~~wave~~: waves.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 15, wherein the apparatus is constituted such that the microorganism elimination means can irradiate particles of chemicals as the particles for the sterilizing treatment of microorganisms.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating elimination of microorganisms, comprising installing a cylindrical wind tunnel inside a container closed from the outside air, forming a passage of air containing microorganisms inside the wind tunnel, supplying the air containing microorganisms in the space inside of the wind tunnel from one side of the wind tunnel via a microorganism injection tube connected at the outside of the container, carrying out the sterilizing of the microorganisms inside the inner space of the wind tunnel to irradiate particles comprising ions to the air containing microorganisms, sampling the microorganisms from the air containing ~~microorganism~~ microorganisms after the irradiation of the particles from the other side of the wind tunnel by means of taking in the air containing microorganisms via a sampling tube into a microorganism sampler at the outside of the container, and measuring the concentration of activity of the sampled microorganisms to evaluate the performance of elimination of the microorganisms of said particles from the result of ~~measures~~: measurements.

26. (New) The method for evaluating elimination of microorganisms according to claim 25, wherein the inner space of the container is formed to be a square pole shape of 80mm square and 300mm length, and further wherein the wind tunnel is formed to be in a cylindrical shape with 55mm inner diameter and 200mm length.